

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 14-92—SB 66**  
*Environment Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING OUTDOOR WOOD-BURNING FURNACES**

**SUMMARY:** This act (1) makes permanent the restrictions on outdoor wood-burning furnaces that do not meet certain requirements and (2) requires all outdoor wood-burning furnaces, not just those built or in use on or after July 8, 2005, to burn only non-chemically treated wood.

Prior law prohibited people from constructing, installing, establishing, modifying, operating, or using these furnaces until the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated regulations governing them, unless they were either built or in use before July 8, 2005 or:

1. were installed at least 200 feet from the nearest home not serviced by it;
2. had a chimney higher than the roof peaks of homes within 500 feet of the furnace and not serviced by it, but no higher than 55 feet;
3. burned only non-chemically treated wood; and
4. were installed and operated according to the manufacturer's written instructions, provided the instructions comply with the law.

The act eliminates the EPA provision, thus making the restrictions permanent.

By law, operating an outdoor wood-burning furnace in violation of the law is an infraction punishable by a fine of up to \$90. Each day of a violation is a separate infraction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND**

*Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnace*

By law, an outdoor wood-burning furnace is an accessory structure or appliance designed to (1) be located outside living space ordinarily used for human habitation and (2) transfer or provide heat, through liquid or other means, by burning wood or solid waste. It is used to heat (1) spaces other than the space where the furnace is located; (2) any other structure or appliance on the premises; or (3) domestic water or water used in a swimming pool, hot tub, or jacuzzi. The definition excludes fire pits, wood-fired barbecues, and chimineas.

OLR Tracking: KLM:DC:VR:am